

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 ACDA-19 IO-14 SSO-00

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /170 W

----- 099331

R 121240Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5428

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEOMASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 5010

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

STATE PASS CAIRO

KUWAIT PASS DOHA, MUSCAT

LONDON FOR LAMBRAKIS

TOKYO FOR THE SECRETARY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, XF, SA

SUBJECT: PUBLIC SUPPORT BY SAQQAF FOR KISSINGER

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SUMMARY. MINSTATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF HAS PUBLICLY ASSERTED STRONG SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS OF SECRETARY IN ME SETTLEMENT. HE TOLD CORRESPONDENTS THAT THE SECRETARY HAD MET REPEATEDLY WITH HIM IN NEW YORK AND KNEW OF SAUDI ARABIA'S INTEREST IN PEACE ON THE BASIS OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIANS TO SELF-DETERMINATION. SAQQAF FLEW OFF TO DAMASCUS ON ASSIGNMENT FROM FAISAL TO BRIEF SYRIAN OFFICIALS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS. THE STRONG PUBLIC STATEMENT OF SAQQAF IS HELPFUL TO THE US POSITION IN THE KINGDOM. END SUMMARY.

1. SAUDI MINSTATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAQQAF SPEAKING AT RIYADH AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY AFTER DEPARTURE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER NOV 9 TOLD REPORTERS FROM BOTH FOREIGN AND SAUDI NEWS AGENCIES AND NEWSPAPERS THAT KING FAISAL HAD FULLY EXPLAINED THE POLICY OF SAUDI ARABIA IN A QUOTE THOROUGH AND GOOD MEETING WITH DR. KISSINGER UNQUOTE. SAQQAF ADDED THAT THE SECRETARY HAD A QUOTE TRUE DESIRE TO EXERT ALL THAT CAN BE DONE TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT UNQUOTE. THE SAUDI PRESS QUOTED SAQQAF AS HOPING THAT THE TALKS IN RIYADH HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN COMING TO THE REALIZATION OF TH BASIS ON WHICH PEACE CAN BE BUILT, NAMELY THE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE RIGHT OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE TO SELF-DETERMINATION.

2. SAQQAF REITERATED SAUDI ARABIAN INTEREST IN ANY STEP TAKEN TOWARDS SETTLING THE PROBLEM BY PEACEFUL MEANS. HE NOTED THAT DR. KISSINGER HAD HAD FOUR MEETINGS WITH HIM IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON AND THAT HE QUOTE KNOWS OUR VIEW-POINTS AND WE KNOW HIS UNQUOTE.

3. SAQQAF FLEW TO BEIRUT AND DROVE TO DAMASCUS ON NOV 10, THE DAY AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE SECRETARY, PRESUMABLY TO BRIEF SYRIAN OFFICIALS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THE TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY.

4. COMMENT: SAQQAF'S AIRPORT STATEMENTS UNUSUAL AND REFLECT THE EXCELLENT PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS
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THE SECRETARY MADE ON HIS SAUDI HOSTS; THEY ALSO ARE A PSYCHOLOGICAL BOOST TO THE POSITION OF THE USG IN SAUDI ARABIA.
AKINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NNN

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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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To: STATE
Type: TE
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